

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

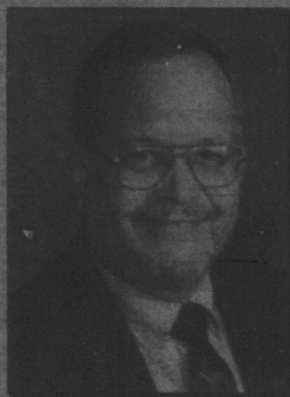
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OL 134
No. 8

Ag Missions sets meeting

Dennis McCall, agricultural missionary to East Africa, will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Agricultural Development Foundation to be held at First Church, Starkville on February 27. Appointed in 1987, McCall and his wife Margaret have served in Burundi and Tanzania. Since 1995, the McCalls have worked with the Zigua Unreached People Group in northern coastal Tanzania. Located near the city of Kitumbe, Dennis, now classified as a development evangelist with the International Mission Board, worked with two Tanzanian home missionaries to plant 10 churches and develop a 15 acre demonstration farm with facilities to train local farmers. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with lunch provided at the church.



McCall

Judge releases detained Baptist vols

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP) — A judge in Haiti on February 17 released eight of 10 American missions volunteers who had been detained in the country on allegations of attempting to transport 33 Haitian children without proper documentation into the Dominican Republic.

Judge Bernard Saint-Vil said two volunteers would not be freed. Laura Silsby, the group's leader, and Charisa Coulter are being kept for further investigation.

CNN reported earlier in the day that Coulter, who is diabetic, was taken to a field hospital "in a lot of pain." Friends and family members of the detainees had expressed concern about the volunteers' access to health care since their arrest on January 29.

Saint-Vil said the eight released volunteers will be allowed to return to the United States without posting bail after their three-week detention. He added that the investigation is continuing and the Americans would have to return to Haiti if they are called back.

Members of Paramount Church in Amarillo, Texas, where detainee Jim Allen is a member, have spent the past two Sundays in a focused time of prayer for Allen and the others. Executive pastor Dave Anderson told Baptist Press he has learned to be a "little guarded" in his optimism in light of repeated rumors of the detainees' release, although he said the news this time seemed legitimate.

"We're just thrilled to hear that he apparently is on his way home," Anderson said. "It's certainly been something that's been on everybody's mind. We've had two Sunday services where there's really been an emphasis on spending time in prayer for Jim and for these individuals."

Anderson said he doesn't know why Silsby and Coulter are being detained and "we certainly wish that they were released as well."

Morris H. Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville, said after receiving the news, "I rejoice that eight of the detainees have been released from prison and ask my fellow Southern Baptists to continue to pray for the timely release of the remaining volunteers."

Nine of the volunteers, including Silsby and Coulter, are members of Southern Baptist churches. Silsby and Coulter are from Idaho.

"This entire situation has been unfortunate for everyone involved — the Haitian people as well as the volunteers, their families and churches," Chapman said. "Hopefully, it will serve as a reminder that there is no shortcut for proper training and orientation before embarking on short-term ministry trips."

"I pray this will be a catalyst for more of our cooperating churches to take advantage of disaster relief training offered through our North American Mission Board."

Meanwhile, Jorge Puello, who had stepped forward as a presumed legal adviser in the Dominican Republic on behalf of some of the Americans, reportedly now is being pursued by U.S. Marshals as well as authorities in El Salvador.

Puello called the Associated Press (AP) on February 16 and said he was in



Silsby

Panama preparing to return to El Salvador to face charges for leading a ring that lured young girls and women into prostitution. He also acknowledged he is named in a 2003 federal indictment in Vermont that accuses him of smuggling illegal immigrants from Canada into the United States, AP said.

Saint-Vil, however, had stated that Puello's legal problems are separate from the child kidnapping charges that were leveled against the 10 Americans.

One of the Americans on Tuesday denied any connection to Puello.

Associated Press said Puello, 32, is identified as Jorge Torres in the Vermont indictment and managed to avoid arrest because he was living in Canada at the time. The United States requested extradition, and Puello fled.

The AP report also noted that Puello was convicted of theft of U.S. government property in 1999 in Pennsylvania and sentenced to six months in prison and five years probation, and in 2001 a court found he violated the terms of his probation and issued a warrant for his arrest.

After the Americans were detained on January 29, Puello contacted their relatives by calling their church, Central Valley Church in Meridian, Idaho, AP said. Before he initiated the call, he had never met any of them. In subsequent days, Puello reportedly delivered food and medicine to the prisoners and helped them find a Haitian lawyer, whom he later fired.

Puello was born in the United States but has strong ties to the Dominican Republic, AP said, and authorities in El Salvador noted his resemblance to the suspect in a sex trafficking case in their country after seeing him portrayed as representing the Americans.

Allen, the detainee from Amarillo, Texas, confirmed during an eight-minute phone call with his wife on February 16 that he had no contact with Puello. "I have never heard from that guy, never seen him, never spoke to him, never met him," Allen said. "I don't even know who he is."

Louis Gary Lissade, a former Haitian minister of justice, is representing Allen with help from a team of attorneys in the United States including Liberty Legal Institute, which conveyed information from the phone call in a news release the same day.

Allen's wife Lisa said that during the call he was in good spirits, joked about having lost a few pounds and expressed confidence in Haitian officials to set him free, the news release said.

Liberty Legal Institute, based in Plano, Texas, filed a motion on February 10 seeking the release of Allen, a small business owner and construction worker.



HERETO HELP — International Mission Board (IMB) missionary Delores York interprets, consoles, and prays with patients at a clinic in Jimani, Dominican Republic, near the Haiti border where victims of the recent massive earthquake have fled in search of assistance. In addition to being injured, most Haitians who have shown up at the clinic have lost their homes as well as family and friends. (BP photo)

Choctaw County Crusade sees 353 decisions

By Roy Hawkins
Correspondent

The Greater Choctaw County Crusade was held October 18-21 at the Ty Cobb Auditorium in Ackerman. The crusade was a tremendous success measured by any standard.

The Crusade came about through a generous gift of money, first pledged in January of this year, and added to by a number of people and churches as well as the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Planning for the crusade began in February and continued until the week prior to the event.

In May, a group of pastors and concerned lay people began meeting twice each Monday to pray for a great movement of God in the county. The prayer meetings were held in churches throughout Choctaw County, of every race and denomination. The meetings continued until the Crusade was underway.

Soon after the prayer meetings began, a Crusade steering committee was chosen from among those who attended the weekly prayer meetings. These people were from all Christian denominations in our county.

The decision was made to ask Jerry Pipes, team leader of the

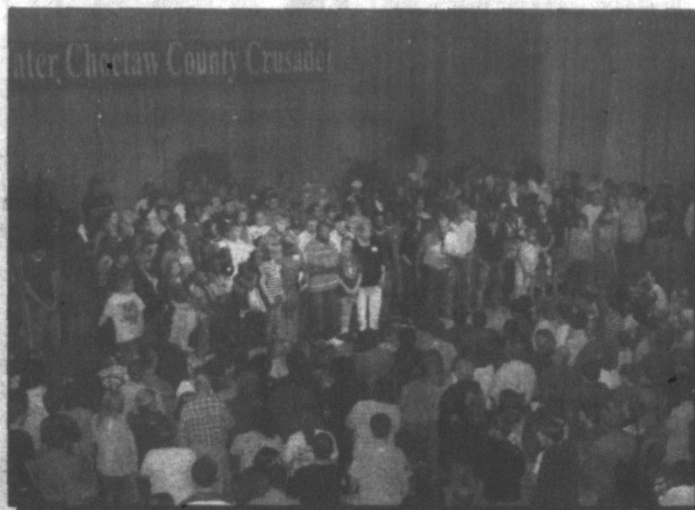
Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Team at the North American Mission Board in Atlanta, to lead the event. This decision was made after a group of Christian leaders heard him speak at Bethlehem Church, Ackerman.

Pipes agreed to lead the Crusade and with his help, a Crusade team was chosen which included Scott Atkins from St. Louis as Crusade worship leader, and Jim Coldiron, consultant to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, as crusade director.

During the months of planning, two countywide events were held which, along with the weekly prayer meetings, paved the way for a successful crusade. The first of these was a Believer's Rally held at the Ty Cobb Center on September 20. Some 550 people were present for this exciting evening. On September 28-29, crusade counselors were trained at Enon Presbyterian Church, Ackerman. Approximately 220 people were trained during these two nights by Coldiron.

A 24-hour prayer vigil was also held the day prior to the beginning of the crusade on Sunday night.

This first service of the crusade was designated Church Night and was attended by well over 900 people. Those present



STANDING ROOM ONLY - Attendees at the Greater Choctaw County Crusade crowd the stage at the Ty Cobb Auditorium in Ackerman on the final evening of the Greater Choctaw County Crusade to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior during the invitation time. Local planners termed the cross-denominational crusade a success, with thousands in attendance and almost 350 decisions made. (Special photo courtesy of Brittany McKay-Fancher/Fancher Photography)

were blessed by the singing of internationally known Christian recording artist Charles Billingsley, as well as by the message preached by Pipes.

On the evening of October 19, prior to Pipes' message, people were entertained and inspired by Lance Berkman, star hitter for the Houston Astros. The evening of October 20 was Children's Night with some 1,250 people in attendance. During that day, Dana Tyson, nationally known juggler and humorist, performed in the schools of the county, encouraging children in grades one through six to attend the crusade. They did so in overwhelming numbers, and enjoyed pizza in the gym before the service.

At the close of Pipes' message, many of the children made decisions for Christ.

The final evening of the crusade was attended by some 1,800 people. During the day Devin Wyman, former defensive lineman for the New England Patriots of the National Football League (NFL), visited the middle and high schools of the county, entertaining students with his feats of strength and encouraging them with his message of

making right choices.

That evening, the youth of Choctaw County enjoyed pizza prior to service time. During the worship hour, Devin Wyman was joined by his friend Keith Davis, also of the NFL. Together, they entertained the attendees and presented Christ as the one who can make the changes one must make to find fulfillment in life.

Pipes concluded the crusade with a powerful message which resulted in more than 100 people receiving Christ as savior.

During the four nights of the crusade, a total of 353 decisions were recorded, with 297 of these receiving Christ as Savior. The Greater Choctaw County Crusade exceeded the expectations of those who planned it and worked together to promote it. Therefore, we thank God for his abundant blessings during the days of the Crusade, and for those who worked so hard in planning and conducting each phase of this united Christian effort.

Hawkins is missions director for Choctaw Association in Ackerman.

Planned P'hood thriving

WASHINGTON (BP) — Another Planned Parenthood clinic is in legal trouble, but America's leading abortion provider otherwise continues to flourish. The Alabama Department of Public Health placed a Planned Parenthood clinic in Birmingham on probation for violations of state law, it was reported on February 11 by the pro-life organization Live Action. Among the infractions it uncovered, the department reported that Planned Parenthood failed to have underage girls in nine of nine sampled cases to authenticate in writing the signatures providing consent for abortions were actually those of their parents. Hidden-camera investigations by Live Action, which is led by college students, have caught Planned Parenthood employees in Alabama, Arizona, California, Indiana, and Tennessee seeking to cover up alleged child sexual abuse, prompting some state investigations. Undercover video released in December showed a counselor at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Wisconsin providing erroneous information about fetal development. Meanwhile, however, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) has opened another "abortion supercenter," as pro-life advocates refer to the new clinics. The latest one opened on February 14 in Portland, Or. Other new, large Planned Parenthood buildings have opened in recent months or years in Houston, Denver, and Aurora, Ill. Planned Parenthood also stands to gain more funds under President Obama's 2011 proposed budget through Title X, the federal government's family planning program. The proposal would increase Title X funding by \$10 million to \$327 million, according to Focus on the Family Action. While Title X funding is barred from paying for abortions, "it frees up other money that [Planned Parenthood] can then use for abortion or other things that people would disagree with," said Carrie Gordon Earl of Focus on the Family Action, CitizenLink reported. Though Planned Parenthood continues to expand with the benefit of government money, other abortion clinics are not faring as well, according to research by Operation Rescue. The activist, pro-life organization reported in December that two-thirds of the country's abortion clinics have gone out of business in the last 18 years. Five more have closed in the last two months, Operation Rescue said on Feb. 15. "It is very clear that the only abortion group expanding its business is Planned Parenthood, and the only reason it can do so is with the help of our tax dollars," Operation Rescue President Troy Newman said in a written statement.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Looking back

10 years ago

Southern Baptists send 36,000 blankets to war-torn Kosovo. The project began as the International Mission Board responded to thousands of ethnic Albanian refugees returning to Kosovo and facing a harsh winter similar to America's Colorado Rockies.

20 years ago

Baptist Sunday School Board trustees affirm a spirit of reconciliation at their February meeting in Nashville, including a motion of support for embattled board president Lloyd Elder. A motion to fire Elder is made and later withdrawn at the August meeting.

50 years ago

First Church, Columbia, leads Mississippi in baptisms for '59, with 226 baptisms recorded. Sandridge Church, Leake, leads in baptisms per church member, with a membership of 189 and 61 baptisms recorded.



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Don't be a Lone Ranger

Southern Baptists and Christian aid groups everywhere breathed a sigh of relief upon the release February 17 of eight American volunteer disaster relief workers from a Haitian jail. Two of the workers remain in Haiti for further questioning in the most bizarre legal case so far to come from the aftermath of the massive earthquake that struck the desperately poor Caribbean island nation earlier this year.

To summarize, the ten volunteers — nine of whom are Southern Baptists from Texas and Idaho — were detained at the Haitian border with the Dominican Republic, the nation that shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti. The volunteers, who had no recognized affiliation with Baptist disaster relief or aid groups, had 33 Haitian children with them when they were stopped.

This is where it gets confusing. Initial news reports filtering back to the U.S. indicated that the American volunteers said they were attempting to place the children, orphaned by the earthquake, in a facility in the Dominican Republic that could care for them. News reports a

few days later indicated that none of the children were orphans but had living parents or close relatives in two small villages devastated by the earthquake.

Different parties to this embarrassing episode all have their versions of what was actually going on, but Haitian authorities moved in quickly to take custody of the children and charge the ten volunteers with kidnapping.

The volunteers had been held in a squalid Haitian jail until the release of the eight on February 17. The 33 children were placed with an Austrian aid group and have not been allowed to return to their villages.

Now throw into the mix of charges, denials, and accusations, a shady legal advisor being sought by the U.S. Marshals Service and a host of other strange characters in a country where, thanks to the earthquake, the court system and government in general are struggling to stay afloat, and this becomes a real quagmire — and an unnecessary one.

Morris Chapman, a Kosciusko native and retiring president of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, issued a statement upon the release of the eight volunteers in which he stressed the importance of being qualified and prepared to enter hazardous areas after massive natural disasters.

"This entire situation has been unfortunate for everyone involved — the Haitian people as well as the volunteers, their families and churches," Chapman said. "Hopefully, it will serve as a reminder that there is no shortcut for proper training and orientation before embarking on short-term ministry trips.

"I pray this will be a catalyst for more of our cooperating churches to take advantage of disaster relief training offered through our North American Mission Board."

Mississippi Baptists also have one of the most well-trained and knowledgeable disaster relief programs in the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in the Men's Ministry Department

of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and allied with the greater Southern Baptist effort.

"Getting there first doesn't always equal getting there with your best," said Jim Didlake, Men's Ministry Director. "No one should go in without a plan."

"The idea that 'we have to be there or nothing will happen' is not true," said Don Gann, consultant in the Men's Ministry Department. "After Hurricane Katrina, there were months and months of work to do. Everyone who wanted to get involved was able to help — just not at the same time."

There are many elements in the story of the arrested volunteers that don't make sense, but a moral is emerging: Don't take matters into your own hands. Do join a Baptist disaster relief group and get trained. Work with local Baptist churches and groups in the disaster area, who will ultimately make the long-term difference.

Be patient; with years of recovery ahead for the Haitian people, everyone who wants to go help will be able to do so.

However the story of the arrested volunteers turns out, it's going to be a black eye for Baptist disaster relief efforts. Don't let this happen to you and your well-meaning group. Get in touch with the Men's Ministry Department and plug in to a program where you can really make a difference for the Lord.

The Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board can be reached at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.

GUEST OPINION:



Are we prepared?

By Sergio Arce
Nashville

Last month, The Tennessean newspaper in Nashville ran a front-page story titled, "Hispanics hold key to churches' future," noting that, "66% of all new congregations added to the Southern Baptist Convention since 1998 were ethnic or African-American."

It is an astounding figure, but even with this rapid growth of diversity in the SBC, there is room for much more evangelism and discipleship by churches among ethnic people groups.

Tim Hill, who oversees ethnic church planting for the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Nashville, has seen much of this growth first-hand, but in the article he also lamented that many Anglo SBC churches in Tennessee "have never done Hispanic ministry and didn't know how to reach people with a different language, culture, and religion."

Ethnic growth is happening all around the United States and it should be shaping how we think about and do ministry in our communities. For instance, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, Hispanics are the fastest growing minority group in the U.S. (currently over 46 million), and are projected to triple in number by 2050.

This presents an incredible missions opportunity for Southern Baptists. I know, because I'm a Hispanic who came to know Christ as my per-

sonal Savior and Lord at a Hispanic Southern Baptist church.

After growing up in a Catholic home, going to a Catholic school, and even serving as an altar boy, it was at Iglesia Bautista Ebenezer in Union City, Ca., where I discovered that no one could get to Heaven by good works, only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9).

I was only nine-and-a-half years old. A few months later, my parents and I moved to Hayward, Ca. God provided an SBC church home that received and embraced us. The saints of Calvary Church in Hayward poured their lives and God's Word into me and modeled for me what it meant to follow Christ.

My parents and another Hispanic family helped begin a Spanish Sunday School class, and within five years Calvary Church grew its out-

reach to ethnics to also offer Sunday School classes in Korean and Romanian.

As I look back at those formative years in my life, I stand amazed at what God did in the life of Calvary Church and what God can do in any church when they commit to be "the church" and make disciples of all nations.

What about you? What does this mean for your church?

There is a God-sized opportunity to reach Hispanic families around your community like never before. What better way to reach Hispanic families than through a life-changing Bible study that helps them come to know and imitate Christ, minister to their needs and help them minister to others, and challenge them to go and make disciples of others?

Begin a Spanish Sunday School class or help sponsor a Hispanic church plant. If your church already has a Spanish

Sunday School class, ministry, or mission in your church, invest in them to help them grow.

At LifeWay we offer a number of resources and facilitating ministries to aid with outreach and discipleship among Hispanics. For instance, we have scheduled five events of "La Escuela Dominical Sencilla" (The Simple Sunday School) that will be offered in Nashville, Tn.; Charlotte, N.C.; Houston, Texas; Upland, Ca.; and Oklahoma City, Ok.

For dates, locations and more information in English please visit, www.lifeway.com/eds or www.lifeway.com/espanol.

Others offer help as well. In 2009, the North American Mission Board released "Reaching Hispanics in North America: Helping You Understand and Engage One of God's Greatest Mission Fields." It's a comprehensive guide and you can find it in English and Spanish at www.nambstore.com.

Jesus calls us — you and me — to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). Incredibly, the nations are already here! They are in your backyard, as well as in mine.

Arce is a National Hispanic Church Specialist for Leadership and Evangelism Training and Events with LifeWay Church Resources in Nashville.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 25, 2010

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

2010 SENIOR ADULT SPRING AREA RALLIES

• **Tuesday, March 9 – North Columbia BC**
Archie 601.736.2254 or tricounty@cblink.com

• **Thursday, March 25 – FBC, Long Beach**
Brenda 228.864.2584 or Brenda@fbcib.com

• **Monday, March 29 – West Jackson BC, Tupelo**
Jim 662.256.8778 or monroe41@bellsouth.net

• **Tuesday, March 30 – FBC, Vicksburg**
Jim 601.636.2493 or jch@fbcvicksburg.org

• **Thursday, April 15 – Emmanuel BC, Grenada**
Barry 662.226.5316 or barry@emmanuelbapt.org

• **Thursday, April 22 – FBC, McComb**
Talmadge 601.835.2440 or tamandmolliesmith@vchn.com

• **Area Senior Adult Revival**
March 22 & 23 at Fairview BC, Columbus

Tommy 662.328.2924 or tgillon@fairviewcolumbus.org)



BIBLE DRILL CAMP is open to churches and campers whether they have done Bible Drill before or not. This camp is designed for church groups to come and stay together. Each church group must have an adult male sponsor for every 5 boys (or portion thereof) and an adult female sponsor for every 5 girls (or portion thereof).

Activities include ...
Bible study, Bible memorization, Bible skill, worship, campfire service, morning watch, time with Southern Baptist missionaries, miniature golf, horseback riding, rifle range (safety/marksmanship), swimming, canoeing, foursquare ... and much more!

BIBLE DRILL CAMP

July 1-3, 2010

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

For children and students grades 3-9 (completed)

COST: \$110

with \$60 deposit due with preregistration

Spirit & Truth

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GROWING CHURCHES CONFERENCE

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OLIVE BRANCH

APRIL 30 – MAY 1

• **Friday, April 30, 2010**
7:00 p.m. – Claude King

• **Saturday, May 1, 2010**
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Guest Speakers: Joel Engle, Greg Heisler & Jim Shaddix

CALL WADE STEELMAN FOR INFO: 662-429-5033

Unhindered... to the Ends of the Earth

Associational Missions Leadership Training
April 30 – May 1, 2010

Annual Missions Celebration
April 30, 2010

Sponsored by WMU, an auxiliary to and department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

For additional information, please call MS WMU at 800-748-1651, ext. 317; 601-292-3317; or e-mail Lmiller@mbcb.org



Please note date correction
Annual Meeting will be
on Friday night

BIBLIOPHET

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GVH YAT BHMIT VG BVR
YAMY DHLFBTYA
EMWQMYLVF AMYA
MXXTMHTR YV MWW
KTF.
YLYOE YNV: TWTQTF

Clue: Q = V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Four: Forty-One

JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. The Master's Hands puppet ministry of Tangipahoa Church, Tangipahoa, will present There's No Place Like the U.S.A. at Bogue Chitto Church, McComb, Feb. 27, 7 p.m.; Tower Hill Full Gospel Church, Liberty, Mar. 13, 7 p.m.; Progress Church, McComb, Mar. 28, 6 p.m.; Morgantown Church of God, Foxworth, Apr. 10, 7 p.m.; and New Hope Church, Foxworth, May 22, 7 p.m. For booking or other information, call (601) 341-1314 or 684-2193.

2. GuideStone has released the Ministers Tax Guide for 2009 for ministers needing help in preparing their 2009 tax returns. The guide is edited by GuideStone's legal and compliance staff to address the tax issues that affect the greatest number of Southern Baptist pastors. The guide can be obtained in PDF format from www.guidestone.org, or participants can receive a free printed copy by calling 1 (888) 984-8443 between 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. CST Mon. - Fri.

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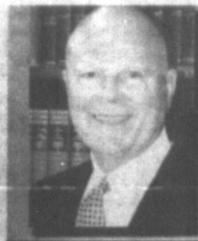
EMAIL - THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

Email or electronic mail is still an important means of communication though we are now being told that it is quickly being replaced by text messaging as the favorite way to stay in touch and especially by the young folks. I both receive and send email messages, but I still do not like what I see in most emails. Like virtually any gadget and gizmo in our society, it has its pluses, minuses, and sometimes downright underwhelming value. While I do not intend to bring any real insights concerning the email industry, I would like to make a few comments about it. Email certainly has some good, some bad, and some ugly.

First of all the good is that email is a convenient, cheap, and instant contact with other folks to express ideas, emotions, and even disagreements. Now given all of the economic pressures that are exerted on real mail with rising fuel costs and increasing postage it is easy to understand why people do not sit down, write a note on an expensive piece of paper, put it in an envelope, stick a high-priced stamp on it, and then drive it to the post office.

I am fully aware of the fact that email seems to cost virtually nothing, but of course that is after you buy an expensive computer, get connected with a server that is going to put you on the worldwide web, and pay them monthly. There are some expenses involved in it and if you do not use it but once or twice, it may be like sending a several thousand-dollar letter. What a wonderful thing it is to live in a world where you can sit down at a computer, write a letter about the latest thing that is taking place in your life or family, touch a send button, and almost instantly connect with your family across the nation or on the other side of the globe. If on your list of favorites you have friends or family who are serving in the armed forces around the globe and especially in the war areas, or if you have missionary friends or family members, what a blessing it is to hear from them and respond to them almost as quickly as the thoughts come to your mind. Just think about that, over a span of a century, communication has moved from boats, stagecoaches, pony express, trains, planes, and to instant connections with email. With the speed of electronic mail service, it seems that the only step that can be taken now is to send information before you even think it. That will be an interesting development.

However, there is a bad side, I frequently see it and occasionally hear about it. The bad is that email is convenient, cheap, and instant contact with other folks to express ideas, emotions, and even disagreements. Yes that is what I said was the good side, but it is also the bad side. It has



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

been said that email is a good way to send information, but a poor way to communicate. There is a lot of truth in that because people tend to be less exact, sometimes totally without punctuation that would bring context, feeling, and meaning to a thought. Worst of all they are able to just slap some thoughts and feelings down on an electronic page and send it. You see the reality is that most of us do not do our best thinking in the heat of emotions and when something has been done, said, or an action proposed that you instantaneously and immediately disagree with you might need a few minutes, an hour, or a day or so to reflect on it before reacting to it. Upon reflection and even conversation, there may be an additional piece of information that totally changes everything for you. It has happened on a number of occasions that I have received electronic mail from someone who has heard about something that had been said or done in Baptist life. I have received mail from intelligent, gifted, and articulate people who immediately wrap all of their raw emotions in the garb of over-the-top rhetoric and pound the send button. Then before I can open it and read it there is another incoming piece of mail with the instructions, "Please disregard the previous email." Then maybe they add an additional thought or two about what they had found out since the first email was sent.

In years gone by, the labor of sitting down with a piece of paper, writing the words down in sentences, seeing them before you, and knowing that it would take several hours for you to get it ready to take to the post office and then it would be days before it would get there not only provided some time for emotions to cool off but for the brain to look at the situation in a broader perspective. It provided opportunity to look at the issue through different windowpanes of life and might bring you to a place where even though you did not agree you might understand. That is a missing element and a bad thing when it comes to electronic mail.

Now a word about the ugly — It does get worse than just bad. It gets down right ugly. For you see, while email might be quick and might even be effective in sending information, the hurt that can be done, the broken relationships that can be experienced, the damaged family connections that can be ruptured or ruined are in essence the same as they have always been. What

I mean is that while we may think that we live in a wonderful world of great technology where we can have quick access to anybody and virtually any piece of information, it does not mean that relationships are any easier to establish, maintain, and nurture than they have ever been.

In decades gone by, they used to talk about people receiving a Dear John letter, which, of course, was the heart-breaking goodbye, the relationship-is-over piece of mail. I read about people today who have received the same heart-break electronically. Do you suppose it feels any better from an email than it did by a snail mail or even by telephone? Human relationships regardless of whom they are with have the potential of being extremely fragile. People not only have feelings but they have areas of their life that may be so sensitive and vulnerable that you know nothing about them. The faster we zip back and forth to each other and occasionally bounce outside the boundaries, over the top, and sometimes

below the belt it can become an awkward, hurtful, and ugly thing that results.

Do we do away with email? I don't think so! What we can do regardless of the kind of communication that is taking place is to desire to be Christ-like in our expressions and in our responses. We can seek to be more helpful than hurtful, to seek to lift and to love more than just to make our point about an issue. James 1:19 is filled with wisdom. "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

Classified Ads

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE OF THE Tennessee Baptist Foundation, Brentwood, Tennessee is soliciting resumes for the position of President-Treasurer. College degree, five years experience in finance related work. Supervisory experience. Committed Christian active in a church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Energetic self starter. Interested persons contact: George Gibson, 100 Coventry Wynde, Kingsport, TN 37664, 423.288.8982 or gandsgibs@charter.net

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN Greenville MS is seeking God's man for a full-time Worship Pastor. We are a contemporary Southern Baptist church with a praise band and choir. Please send resumes and dvd presentations to Roger Russell at 2548 Whip-Poor-Will Drive, Greenville MS 38701.

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN Greenville, MS is seeking God's man for our full-time Youth Pastor position. We are a contemporary styled Southern Baptist church in the heart of the Delta. Send resumes to Mike Robinson, 3600 Glendale Road, Greenville, MS 38703.

LEMOYNE BLVD. BAPTIST CHURCH, Biloxi, seeking Minister of Music. Traditional and blended services. E-mail resumes to Jan Goss, kjgoss59@aol.com.

FBC, BOYLE, MS IS SEEKING RESUMES for a Pastor to lead our church according to God's will. Qualifications will be those set forth in the New Testament 1 Timothy 3. Submittal deadline is March 31. Please forward resume to: FBC Boyle c/o PSC, P. O. Box 218, Boyle, MS 38730

BREWER BAPTIST CHURCH, IS seeking a P/T Youth and Children's Director that can help us prepare future leaders for an eternity, not just for today. Resumes will be received through February 28, 2010. Please send your resume to 24 Otho Sellers Rd., Richton, MS 39476 or email ynymistry@yahoo.com

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING a P/T Music/Youth Minister. Send resumes to Bethel Baptist Church, c/o Bill Finch, 500 S. Main, Water Valley, Ms., 38965-3327 or Email bfinches@gmail.com. Tel. 662-473-3667.

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Endurance

MS Super Summer 10

JULY 12 - 16, 2010
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, CLINTON



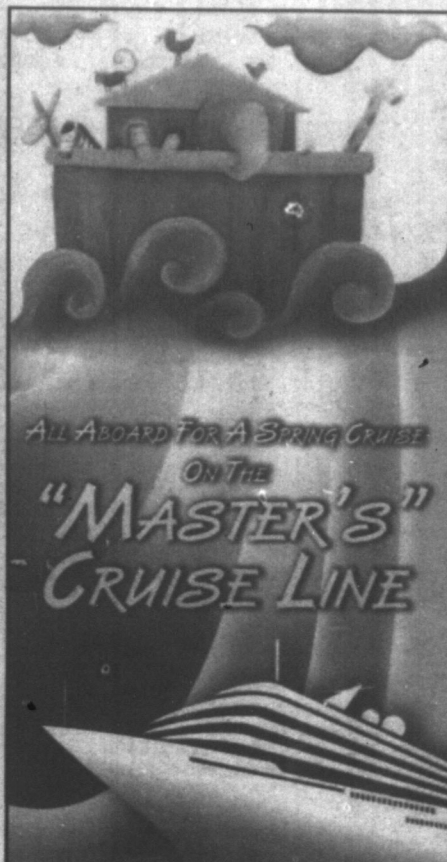
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APRIL 12 & 13, 2010

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A PURPOSE / A PROMISE

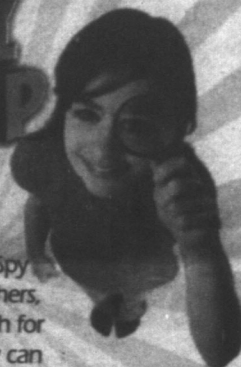
Saturday, April 10

2010 Student Speakers' Tournament

William Carey University
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Registration - 9:30 a.m.
Tournament - 10:00 a.m.

For more information:
Discipleship & Family Ministry Department
1.800.748.1651 toll free
601.292.3286 local
Email: KHALL@mbcb.org or redwards@mbcb.org
Fax: 601.714.7432

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Week I - June 21-23, 2010

Week II - June 24-26, 2010

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Kosciusko, MS

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COST \$150

Fee includes camp activities, lodging, meals,
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SPECIAL CAMP POLICY:

Requires churches to send an adult counselor (21
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HIGHLIGHTS

- Worship
- Church Bible study
- Adventure Ropes course
- Horseback riding
- Archery/Riflery
- Fishing

Registration opens at 10:00 a.m.
Last day, camp concludes at 1:00 p.m.

For registration information, please contact
MBCB Conference Office at (601) 292-3216.



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**DANIEL
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For more information, call Kay McDonnell,
(601) 292-3305 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305,
or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

"PREACH THE WORD"

FBC, Vicksburg
Monday, April 19

FBC, Kosciusko
Tuesday, April 20

FBC, Philadelphia
Wednesday, April 21

March 25-27, 2010, GARAYWA

Camp and Conference Center, Clinton



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Tuesday, 3/02
FBC, Jackson
Led by Sherry Spillman

Thursday, 3/04
North Oxford BC
Led by Sherry Spillman

Thursday, 3/11
FBC, Laurel
Led by Rick Morton

"NEW" Pastor Workshop

March 22, 2010 • 9:00 a.m.-12 noon
William Carey University

For pastors who are:

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- Looking for "NEW" ideas

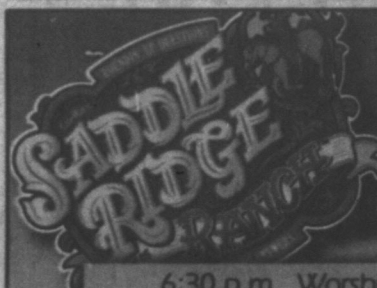
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Contact Kay McDonnell at 601.292.3305 or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org
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Jerry Barlow



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April 13, 2010

Calvary BC, Macon
Siloam BC, Meadville
FBC, Cleveland

April 15, 2010

Gaston BC, Booneville
FBC, Belzoni
Temple West BC,
Hattiesburg

April 20

Parkway BC, Kosciusko
FBC, Oxford

6:30 p.m. Worship Rally
7-9 p.m. Conferences

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- Preschool, Children, Youth and Adult
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*Not all conferences offered at all locations

For more information contact

Angie Boydston at
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Ignite 2010

March 26-28, 2010
First Baptist Church, Columbus

Church Facilities & Furnishings Workshop

March 16, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Parkway Baptist Church
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Clinton



For pastors, staff members,
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administrators and
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For more info, contact Keith Gordon
at kgordon@mbcb.org or
601-292-3307 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 307

JUST FOR THE RECORD



4. Oak Grove Church, Lexington



5. The Nichols



6. Liberty Hill Church, Pope



7. Tylertown Church, Tylertown

1. Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, will host Phil Waldrep, author of Parenting Prodigals and host of Living with Joy, Mar. 7, 10:30 a.m.

2. Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie, is hosting Jerry Trammell in concert Feb. 28, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received.

3. Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, hosted its first 5th Sunday sing Jan. 31 with over 100 in attendance, followed by a meal and fellowship.

4. Oak Grove Church, Lexington, honored Boy Scout Troop 64 Feb. 7 for Scout Sunday and for it being the 100th anniversary of Scouting. Shown are members of the troop.

5. First Church, Byhalia, honored William A. (Billy) Nichols with a plaque for serving 52 years as an active deacon. Shown are Nichols, his wife Fannie Mae, and son Jerry.

6. Liberty Hill Church, Pope, held a dedication service Jan. 31 for their new fellowship center. It was named in memory of a former pastor, James Lee Bailey. Shown are members of the building and planning committee, the Bailey family, AMD Courtney Selvy, and pastor Jay Anderson.

7. The Brotherhood of Tylertown Church, Tylertown, began a campaign for the Buckets of Hope Haitian relief project, with drop buckets located around the county for monetary contributions. Sixty buckets were donated by Smitty's Supply, Inc., Roaseland, La. For more information on the project, including donations or help packing the buckets, call (601) 303-1722 or 876-3436. Shown are Jim Johnson, Jonah Wood, Bruce Wood, Fred Lambert, and Paul Graves.

8. The GAS of Calvary Church, Newton, recently participated in a Valentine's Day mission project to reach young children. Shown are Madison Mann, Abby Vega, Bella Collins, Graci Copeland, Marianna Collins, Beth Holmes, Micah Wendelken, and Alexis Tindall.



8. Calvary Church, Newton

STAFF CHANGES

1. First Church, Plantersville, has called Josh Palmer as youth director. He is shown with his wife, Ashley.



1. The Palmers



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Pray this day for...

February 26 - March 11, 2010

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you."

Psalm 73:25

Pray for a team from **Lifepoint Church in Senatobia** traveling to Honduras, Feb. 27-March 6, for the purpose of evangelism.

Pray for Max Anders, a church planter who recently planted Geist Chapel in Fishers, Indiana. Pray for their core group that already has 70-80 people and the continued discipleship of the new church start.

Pray for: (1) Student Ministry Spring Training (Central), FBC, Clinton (D&FM); (2) Billy Tyler, church planter, Clarksville, Indiana, working to plant a church called New Song Baptist Church. This church is located in a growing working class area of Indiana.

Pray for: (1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS, 3rd-5th; (2) church planter, Charlie Fehman recently planted Point Community Church in Fishers, Indiana. They meet in a community theater and striving to do things with excellence to reach an upper classed un-churched population.

Pray for: (1) Student Ministry Spring Training (North), North Oxford BC, Oxford (D&FM); (2) believers in the state of Punjab, India, where great persecution is going on. Churches and Christian schools are being burned. Christians are being beaten and killed.

Pray for: (1) AMD Interpretation Meeting, Garaywa; (2) Christian Performing Arts Festival, Byram, 26-27 (D&FM); (3) a member of **Central BC, Lauderdale** Association travels to the Dominican Republic, working with a team in the areas of evangelism and discipleship.

Pray for: (1) two ladies from **FBC Picayune and Liberty BC in Flowood** traveling to Bangladesh, Feb. 26-March 16, to lead women's conferences; (2) State Keyboard Festival, Jackson (CM); (3) Young Ringers Festival, Garaywa (CM).

North American Missions Emphasis & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (WMU Emphasis).

Pray for church planter, Davis Haskill, who is in the process of planting Trinity BC in Memphis, Indiana. Two thousand new homes are located in a five mile radius of this church plant.

Pray for Chris Hoffman as he plants the Peak Church in Nappanee, Indiana. Pray for church planters to come along side this plant for prayer and resources.

Pray for: (1) Student Ministry Spring Training (South), FBC, Laurel (D&FM); (2) for a team from **FBC, Long Beach**, traveling to Uganda, Africa, March 11-24. Pray for their journey and the relationships they have there and opportunities for the Gospel to be shared.

Pray for a team from **Lafayette/Marshall Baptist Association**, as they travel to Tokyo, Japan, March 11-20. They will be taking part in prayer walking and evangelism.

Pray for: (1) Chaplains' Spring Retreat, Garaywa, 5th-6th (MM); (2) Mother/Daughter Overnight, Garaywa, 5th-6th (WMU).

Please pray for Tony Manning, church planter in Fishers, Indiana, who has recently started Hamilton Village Church. Fishers is a fast growing suburb of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Ultimate Youth Week



Speaker
GARY PERMENTER

June 7 - 11
Central Hills Baptist Retreat



Worship Leader
TOM EDWARDS

- A \$10 deposit per camper is due with the balance paid 15 days prior to camp.
- The total cost per camper is \$175 which includes lodging, meals, insurance, program fees and t-shirt.
- A reservation request form is available online at www.mbc.org <<http://www.mbc.org>>. Click on encampments and Central Hills Baptist Retreat.

FOR MORE INFO: Rene' Edwards
Ministry Assistant
Discipleship and Family Ministry
PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205
601.292.3283
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dramage@mbcb.org
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HOUSE TOPS

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

How Can You Keep from Losing Your Mind?

2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-17

By Barbara Brown

"Let the mind of the Master be the master of your mind." (Anonymous)

When I was a kid, we rode our bikes everywhere. We spent hours on long summer days riding for miles. We rode to the store for bread and we rode to school. And every place we traveled, we rode helmet-free! When my girls were young, they loved riding their bikes as well, but helmets for them were the standard. We wanted to protect the most important part of their bodies—their heads and brains—from injury. They sometimes protested, but only because they lacked the wisdom to understand the possibilities for harm—speeding cars, loose gravel, and their own lack of skill.

As Christians we often approach life with unprotected

minds. We are self-confident, cocky, and certain that nothing is going to hurt us. We act as if we are totally unaware that there is a war going on around us. Although, as His children, we can know that we belong to our Creator and "no one can pluck us out of His hand," the enemy has the potential to inflict harm and cause great distress to those who are not guarding their minds and hearts. So how can we keep from losing our minds?

We Must Be Aware

We are in a real battle zone. The battle is a spiritual one, much bigger than we are and it is being waged all around us—in our homes, on our jobs, and even in our churches. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:12 that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against rulers, against the



Brown

authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." The enemy is real—a force of evil led by Satan. Created by God, these evil rulers, authorities, and angelic beings chose to rebel against Him. The power they have in this world is temporary but very real.

We Must Be Prepared

Just as a warrior will dress for battle, taking with him the weapons he may need along the way, we must dress ourselves for the daily battle against the demonic forces. The outfit we need is described in Ephesians 6 as "the full armor of God." Each piece is a necessary part with specific protection provided by the Spirit of God. It is attire that must be donned with each new day. The protection it offers, while not visible to the outside world, will be evidenced as we walk obediently, in the Spirit, unaffected by the blows of the enemy. "Let a man neglect putting on his armor and he will

soon reveal carnality to everybody else in his conduct and behavior. But let him go into the robing room each day with God in the name of the Lord Jesus, and let him there in prayer, put on the whole armor of god—truth, righteousness, faith, peace, the helmet of salvation, the Word of God as the sword of the Spirit, and the armor of all-prayer, clothing the world cannot see—and it will soon be evident to all by his daily conduct in his daily life that he has clothed himself with the whole armor of God. (Alan Redpath, Blessings Out of Buffetings, p. 179)

We Must Wage War

The battle for our minds is not one we must fight to win—it has already been won! Our task is to wake up, armor-up, stand up and pray. The battle is a spiritual battle and it will be won in the spiritual realms. There is a Spirit that fights for us and we wage war on the enemy by the power of that Spirit through prayer. Paul says, "We do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine

power to demolish strongholds." (2 Corinthians 10:3-4) He added in his letter to the Ephesians, "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." (6:18)

We Must Not Lose Our Minds

Satan knows that we belong to God. He also knows how to distract our minds from the things of God. He will clothe evil in such a way that it appears good. He will send people our way whose deceptive doctrine is so wittingly displayed that our minds are easily led astray. He will wrap lies in sheep's clothing in order to attract our minds. The battle for our minds is won as we "demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Cor. 10:5) As we identify our minds with Christ and clothe ourselves with His spiritual armor, we can rest assured in the knowledge that He will keep us from losing our minds.

Brown is children's minister, Colonial Heights Church, Ridgeland.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

When Life is Unfair

Mark 15:15-20; 29-32; 37-39; 16:5-7

By Malcolm Woody

It is a mob scene. You ask yourself, how did shouts of Hosanna just this past Sunday turn into shouts of Crucify? You pull your garment over your head. If recognized as a follower, you know for certain you could be arrested. You watch from the frenzied crowd as Barabbas, a guilty man, goes free and Jesus, an innocent man, is led away to be flogged. Afterwards, a public display of mockery turns your stomach in such a way that you can't watch. As Jesus stands in a courtyard known as the "headquarters," He is robed in purple, the color of royalty, and mocked unmercifully. You turn away.

Later, from a distance, you watch as He is nailed to the

cross and then raised in place. How could it all end like this? There are shouts from the crowd, and one man frantically shakes his fist yelling, "Ha! The One who would demolish the sanctuary and build it in three days, save Yourself by coming down from the cross! (Mk 15:29b HCSB)" Jesus, from what you can see, appears to pay them little mind. He talks with the two thieves hanging on the right and left and accepts a soaked sponge, but drinks little of it. Then with a loud cry, He breathes His last breath.

It is over. The teaching, the miracles, the parables, the love, the mercy, and everything He lived for now counts for nothing. He is just another wise, if not radical, sage or prophet lost



Woody

to history. You can't help but realize He has changed your life, but that is of little consequence now. If He really was the Messiah, how could things end this way? He must have been a fraud. He was either crazy or evil—nothing else makes any sense.

If this is the end, then everything was a sham. All the talk about the Kingdom and the future must have been lies. Where was the future now? You watch as they pierce His side and the body doesn't flinch. He really is dead. You turn and walk away as the Passover Sabbath approaches and grief overshadows you like a mountain.

Sunday morning you walk along a garden near Herod's palace. It is early, and the sun brings a welcome spring spray of light and warmth. Your head is no longer covered at all. You suddenly care little if someone recognizes you as a follower or not, for now you are not. Jesus

is dead. The grief you felt has more or less turned to rage that you were deceived. There is a tangible absence of hope in your outlook, and you contemplate becoming a zealot. Surely Rome is the problem and it is time to put some metal to them in every sense of the word. You feel sorry for the disciples because all but Thomas are locked away fearing for their lives. Maybe Thomas feels the same way you feel. You look up to see two people talking and being very animated with their hands. They quickly hurry away, one going one way and the other coming your way.

As the person passes nearby, you interrupt the brisk walk and ask, "What is the rush there, traveler?"

The person stops dead in their tracks, looks at you with eyes alive with wonder and says, "He is alive!"

"Who is alive?", you ask daring not to even consider it could be Jesus.

Coming closer and looking left and right as though expect-

ing a Roman contubendum, the man replies, "Jesus has risen. You have followed him—I have seen you before, therefore you need to know that what I report is true. The women found the tomb empty and Mary has even seen Him!"

"Surely you must be mistaken," you reply in a tense tone.

There is no mistake. There were angels there and the Roman guard watching the tomb disbanded. I must go and tell some of the other followers. Take heart dear man, Jesus the Christ has overcome the grave!"

As the man hurries away, hope returns, swelling inside you as pure elation breaks out across your face. Christ's body, what He called the temple, has been restored in three days as He said. Scriptures begin to flood your mind and you recall how Jesus said he would be mocked, killed and would rise again. He is alive! And now so are you—alive in that truth.

Woody is a member of Broadmoor Church, Madison.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

THE BAPTIST
Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Nominees sought for MBC posts

The 2010 Committee on Nominations approved by the messengers of the 174th Mississippi Baptist Convention will soon begin reviewing the trustee/board member positions on the boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) to serve in 2011. According to Allen Simpson, committee chair and pastor of First Church in Amory, there will be a limited number of vacancies to be filled on the following boards and commissions:



Baptist Children's Village
Baptist Health Systems, Inc. (Jackson)
Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis)
Board of Ministerial Education
Education Commission
Historical Commission
Blue Mountain College
Mississippi College
William Carey University
Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, Inc.
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Mississippi Baptist Foundation

The Committee on Nominations will work with the heads of the institutions and agencies to bring a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers of the 175th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 26-27.

Nomination forms are available from Executive Administration - Brenda Box, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, E-Mail: bbox@mbcb.org, or telephone (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, Ext. 201.

Completed forms should be mailed to the Committee on Nominations, Executive Administration at the above address to be received no later than May 1.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

- 1. Friendship Church, McComb:** Revival, Mar. 5 - 7; Fri. - Sat., 6:30 p.m.; Sun., 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and 1 p.m.; Buddy Day, speaker; Phillip Alford, music; LaVern Summerlin, pastor.
- 2. Skene Church, Mid-Delta Association:** Revival, Feb. 28 - Mar. 3; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, Jimmy Breland, Park Neff, bobby Douglas, Shelby Hazzard and Tommy Williamson, speakers; Tommy Waldrup, Paula Norris, and Skene Church adult choir, music; Wayne Sistrunk, pastor.
- 3. Cruger Church, Cruger:** Revival, Feb. 28 - Mar. 3; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Sonny Adkins, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music.
- 4. Christ Church, Greenwood:** Revival, Mar. 28 - 31; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Philip Dancy, speaker; Andy Cummings, music.
- 5. First Church, Batesville:** Revival, Feb. 27 - Mar. 1; Sat., 6 p.m. BBQ; worship, 7 p.m.; Sun., Sunday School, 9 a.m., worship, 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon., 7 p.m.; Ron Herrod, speaker; Bob Smith, music.

COLLEGE NEWS

- 1. Mississippi College's Student Government Association president David Parker, Meridian,** was honored by the Mississippi Legislature at the 22nd annual Higher Education Appreciation Day/Working for Academic Excellence Feb. 24. Michael Mann, associate professor of psychology and counseling, School of Education, was also honored.
- 2. William Carey University** will present the contemporary Christian group Big Daddy Weave and due Chris and Conrad as part of the "We Want the World to Hear" tour Saturday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Auditorium. The concert is part of WCU's Homecoming 2010 celebration. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. A group rate of \$10 per person is available for groups of 20 or more through April 1. Tickets can be purchased in Hattiesburg at Bob's Books, LifeWay Christian Stores, and Main Street Books or by calling 601-318-6561.
- 3. Mississippi College's Spring Preview Day** is Mar. 27 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. It all begins with a continental breakfast during check-in at 8 a.m. at the B.C. Rogers Student Center on the Clinton campus. Campus tours, meetings with professors and remarks from President Lee Royce are all part of the day's events. Lunch and campus tours begin at 11:30 a.m. The event is free. For more information, contact the MC Office of Enrollment Services at (601) 925.3800 or go to enrollment-services@mc.edu.



1. Parker

1. Charles Landrum Salley, 81, was a native of Mississippi and a resident of Nashville, Tennessee. He lived for 47 years in Louisiana. After graduation from Europa High School and Mississippi State, he earned post-graduate degrees from Louisiana State University, The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, George Peabody College for Teachers, and Vanderbilt University. Following a year on the faculty of Chamberlain-Hunt Academy in Port Gibson, Mississippi, he served for 20 years as a pastor including four years at the Baptist church in Kilmichael, Mississippi, and 16 years at the First Church of Kentwood, Louisiana. For another 20 years he was Director of the Library and Adjunct Professor History and Philosophy at Louisiana College in Pineville. A memorial service was conducted at the Woodmont Church in Nashville, where he was a deacon and Sunday school teacher, and later at Kilmichael Baptist Church. Preceded in death by his parents, Floyd and Allene Landrum Salley, he is survived by his wife of 54 years, the former Nell Montgomery of Nashville, two daughters, Susan Salley and Cindy Salley White, both of Nashville, and a granddaughter, Sarah Montgomery White, of St. Louis, Missouri.

2. Lewis M. Bridges died Feb. 5 at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. He was 76. Bridges was a retired minister of music at Monticello Church and a retired salesman for Mississippi Industries for the Blind. He served in the U.S. Army and was a member of Monticello Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, Iddo Lampton Bridges and Maggie Louise Murk Bridges. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Elsie Flowers Bridges of Monticello; three daughters, Karen Kittrell and husband Marty of Vicksburg, Wanda Pennington and husband Jerry of Monticello, and Sonja Jones and husband Henry of Wesson; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Monticello Church the Saturday after his death.

Smoky Mountain Christian Village: Ideal setting for church youth groups, senior adults retreats

Smoky Mountain Christian Village
Paid advertising

Whether it's a senior adult group looking for lodging for a weekday retreat, a weekend marriage encounter or accommodations for a week long summer camp for 100 rambunctious youth, Smoky Mountain Christian Village (SMCV) is the ideal solution for any church.

Nestled in a secluded mountain ridge in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains, SMCV chalets are set in the serenity of old growth trees and nature, yet are only a few minutes away from the shopping and excitement of Pigeon Forge and Dollywood/Splash Country. The world famous Smoky Mountain National Park is only 3 miles away.

This beautiful 44-acre property features accommodations that provide a perfect setting for Christian retreats and meetings. Designed with flexibility in mind, it is ideal for almost any type of event—large or small. From a large family reunion or single family weekend getaway to association retreats or meetings with 200 guests, the facility can handle it all. The campus boasts modern meeting spaces that are flexible for large or small groups. Amenities include a large, year-round, indoor-outdoor heated swimming pool; hot tubs; gas grills; a children's playground; gazebos; walking trails; pavilion with picnic tables; and a



recreational area for pastimes such as horse-shoes and sand volleyball. All accommodations feature fireplaces; many have foosball or pingpong tables. The chalets and lodges are equipped with fully

furnished kitchens where groups can prepare meals together, or SMCV can arrange food service if you prefer. For guests with physical disabilities, there are limited handicap-accessible rooms and accommodations.

The beautiful outdoor setting provides a nurturing environment where nature can be appreciated and God's presence can be felt. You will be rejuvenated

body and soul at this Christian retreat site. The mission of SMCV is to serve the needs of Christian churches, ministries and families. According to Rev. Ken Pritt, executive director, "Our desire is to provide Christian groups and ministries with a comfortable Christian environment in which to retreat, train or simply get away from the secular world."



Smoky Mountain Christian Village
Serving Through Hospitality
866-844-9858 | www.tsmcy.org

Athletes, Baptist vols represent Christ at Olympics

VANCOUVER (BP) — A strong final lap allowed U.S. speedskater Chad Hedrick to overcome a slow start and win the bronze medal in the men's 1000 meters at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

U.S. teammate Shani Davis won the gold medal with a time of 1:08.24. Hedrick was .38 seconds behind Davis, with a time of 1:09.32. Davis won gold in the 1000 meters in the 2006 Olympics in Turin, Italy, and is the world record holder in the event.

Hedrick and Davis accounted for two of six medals won by U.S. athletes on February 17 — America's highest one-day total for the Winter Olympics.

"My consistency on the laps really brought me into the race where I was able to come out and get a medal," Hedrick said. "I left it all out there on the ice. I couldn't be more happy with myself."

He credited Davis with skating a strong race. "He hasn't lost a 1000 meters all year," Hedrick said about Davis. "This guy's just untouchable in the 1000."

Davis and Hedrick have mended their relationship, which was strained during the 2006 Olympics in a highly publicized squabble when Hedrick criticized Davis for not participating in the team pursuit event. Davis declined to race with the team to focus on his individual events.

A lot has changed for Hedrick and his approach to the sport since 2006. Hedrick became a Christian a few months ago and said his conversion has helped him develop a new outlook on life.

Also competing in the 1000 meters was Finland's Mika Poutala, who finished eighth. Poutala has done some preaching and says he may enter the ministry when his speedskating career is over. He was pleased with his performance in the race.

"I had a very good start and a good first lap," Poutala said. "I tried to skate as easy as possible but very fast, and then I just died in the last lap because I'm a sprinter, so it's almost every time like that."

Before the race, Poutala had to forget about his showing in the 500 meter race on February 15, which he led after the first heat but fell to fifth overall after finishing 12th in the second heat.

"In the morning I was still a little bit disappointed about the 500 meter," Poutala said, "but then when I came here I started to concentrate on this 1,000 meter. When I was on the finish line and they announced my name, then I was totally enjoying speedskating again, because I had a very bad few days. I was so disappointed. I've never been that disappointed about sport."

Adam Pengilly stood at the top of the track, bracing himself. A former bobsledder, he was no stranger to the icy slide and had absorbed its best licks many times. One bobsled crash left him with a hole in his lung. Another one gave him a nasty scar on his back from an ice burn.

This time, instead of speeding down in a bobsled with a team, he'd be by himself — on his stomach, head first, on a skeleton sled.

"The first run that you ever take is a pretty scary time in your life," Pengilly said, "and when you know what's coming, the second one's even worse."

The first couple of years of skeleton racing were painful ones for Pengilly, but he remained an optimist, pushing forward and telling himself, "It will get better. It will get better."

Indeed, it did. Pengilly, of Great Britain, became one of his country's top skeleton racers and is representing the United Kingdom in the event in the Vancouver Olympics.

In some ways, Pengilly's spiritual journey has mirrored what happened to him in skeleton, with some rough spots along the way, but he now finds himself walking more closely to Christ than ever.

"Adam Pengilly is deeply committed to Christ," said Derek Spain, pastor of Lake Placid (N.Y.) Church and an Olympic Village chaplain in Whistler, where many of the competitions take place. "He's a guy that walks with the Lord, reads the Word and spends time in prayer."

Pengilly's devotion to the Lord began when he was young. His parents became Christians and were baptized when Pengilly was a boy. "They explained the

Gospel to me in a simple manner, relating to my age, but certainly enough to understand sin and repentance and belief in Christ as my Lord and Savior," Pengilly said. "I asked Mum if I could become a Christian, and that's how it started, really."

He drifted away from the

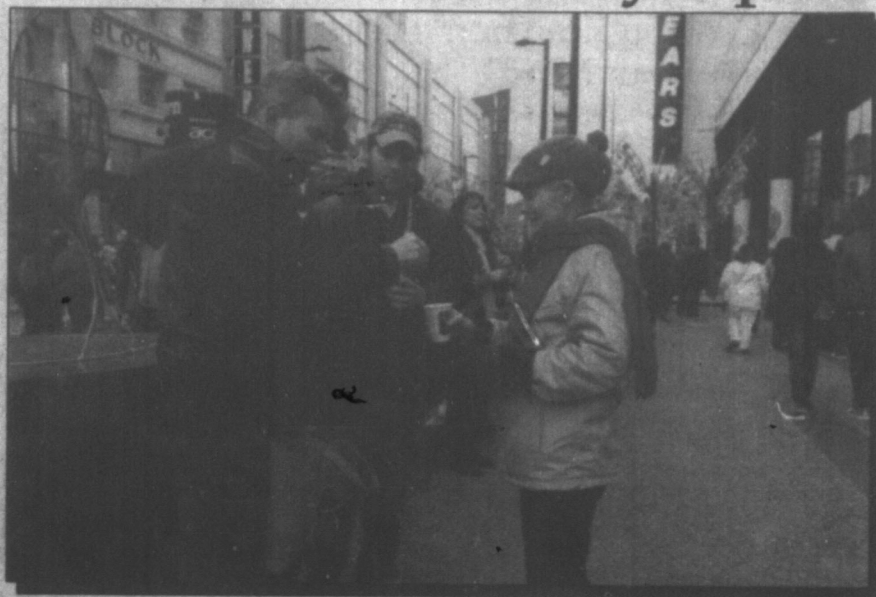
Lord for a while as a teenager and college student, choosing to live for himself over anyone else — but one night at college he had an awakening of sorts. He had spent a night out with his friends, enjoyed a "good time," and realized the utter futility of it. That, he says, is when he started to look to God again.

"I knew it was the truth and I knew in my heart that it was absolutely right, and so since then it's been a walk generally in the right direction," he said.

His faith has grown strong in recent years after he moved to Bath, where he found a good church (an independent Baptist congregation) with solid biblical teaching and a group of young male Christian friends he encourages and is encouraged by.

Along the way, Pengilly got involved with bobsledding. As a track and field athlete in high school, he had a teacher who was a bobsledder and recruited him for the sport. Pengilly coached bobsledding during the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City but realized he still wanted to compete.

Competing in bobsledding, however, is difficult, especially in the United Kingdom where the sport is heavily geared toward the military. It's also expensive. So Pengilly began considering the sister sport of skele-



WARM DRINK, SAVING WITNESS — Volunteers from the More Than Gold initiative at the Winter Olympics working three- and four-hour shifts near Vancouver's Granville SkyTrain station to dispense coffee and hot chocolate, often emptying their supply in less than an hour, then quickly getting their tanks refilled by volunteers three blocks away at Coastal Church. (BP photo)

ton.

"It was a lot cheaper, a lot more accessible," he said. "The program was better. I could buy my own sled, throw it in the car, and drive around Europe if I wanted to."

Skeleton racing is certainly intimidating, racing down the track at speeds of nearly 90 miles an hour, but is it more intimidating than bobsled racing?

"It depends who's driving the bobsled," Pengilly said.

His competition schedule regularly takes him to Lake Placid, which has one of only two bobsled/luge/skeleton tracks in the United States. That's where Pengilly got to know Spain, who ministers to many of the athletes training and competing in

Olympic Games.

With a home base at churches throughout Vancouver, "More Than Gold" volunteers fill large portable containers with hot chocolate and coffee and hit the streets as the days turned cool.

While it's an awkward contraption to wear for three or four hours, there's little doubt the large cylinder attracts attention from a distance — jutting out as it does among throngs in downtown Vancouver.

"Free coffee!" From train stop to train stop, dozens of these backpack coffee dispensers bob around street corners, usually surrounded by volunteers wearing the trademark-blue More Than Gold jackets. Their back-

packs filled with brand-new trading pins, city guides, and copies of Mark's Gospel, the volunteers engage passersby with conversation and coffee.

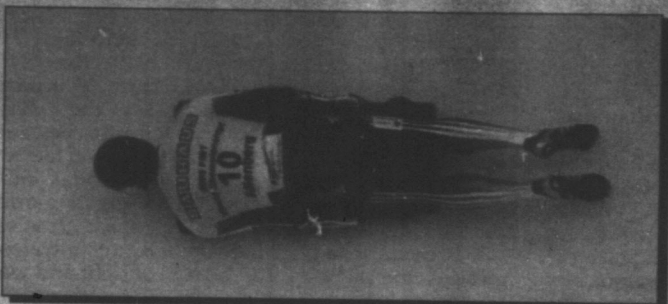
"People come to the Olympics for excellence, and that's what we want to give them," said Steve

Steve

Timmons, director of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas' Baptist Campus Ministry. The pins are premium quality, coffee is organic Nicaraguan, and the pocket guides include profiles of Christian athletes and helpful city maps.

Timmons and a dozen college-aged volunteers form an assembly line along Granville Avenue just outside the doors of the nearby SkyTrain station. Coffee dispenser, cup bearer, and sugar and cream holder all perform their jobs working out of pocket-stitched aprons and a large tank strapped to the biggest volunteer's back. They remain mobile, going where the crowds gather.

If they're serving hot chocolate, someone stands with a can of whipped cream at the ready.



Pengilly

Lake Placid. "Every time he comes to Lake Placid he joins us for Bible study, prayer time, worship, whatever he can do," Spain said of Pengilly. "He is definitely part of our church family when he's in town."

Making an impact at the Olympics means serving others beyond what they are expecting.

"I'm a Christian. Isn't this what we're supposed to do?" asked Irina State, a member of Hope Church in Las Vegas and part of Eastern European Connection, a Las Vegas church plant.

State echoes the feelings of more than 400 Southern Baptist volunteers from 25 states and two Canadian provinces who have joined in making Christ known among crowds in Vancouver for the